

(19)



JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11) Publication number: **07244634 A**(43) Date of publication of application: **19.09.95**

(51) Int. Cl

G06F 13/36(21) Application number: **06033716**(22) Date of filing: **03.03.94**(71) Applicant: **HITACHI LTD**

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(54) **EXTERNAL STORAGE CONTROL UNIT AND BUS
 SWITCHING CONTROL METHOD**

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(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To improve the performance and to reduce the cost of a storage system by providing both a bus for data transfer and a bus for control information transfer together in the storage system and obtaining bus constitution which is most suitable to the access pattern of a host computer with an indication made of a maintenance personnel, etc.

CONSTITUTION: This device has buses (a), (b), and (c) which perform data transfer between a channel adapter CHA3 and a disk adapter DKA5, and a cache memory 2 and a common memory 6. The bus (a) is a bus for data transfer which is connected to the cache memory 2, the bus (c) is a bus for control information transfer which is connected to the common memory 6, and the bus (b) is a bus connected to the both and can transfer both the signals. The purposes of use of the bus (b) can be switched based on the switching indication irrelevantly to whether or not the storage system is in operation.

